

February 8, 2017

The monthly business meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor George Beatty, absent and Committeeman Christopher John Kruk. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC; Township Engineer, Ted Rodman, P.E.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Express Times and The New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards.

Proclamation: Melissa Strom, President of the FFA talked about the Proclamation asking for support from Hope Township.

National FFA Week - February 18 – 25, 2017

WHEREAS, FFA and agriculture education provides a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of the food, fiber and natural resources systems; and

WHEREAS, FFA promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professional to meet the growing needs in the science, business and technology of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the FFA motto – "learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live lining to serve" – gives direction of purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding ion agricultural education; and

WHEREAS, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, Patriotism and cooperation.

THEREFORE, I do hereby designate the week of February 18 – 25, 2017 as FFA Week.

Timothy McDonough, Mayor

Payment of the Bills: Bills will be paid at the February 22, 2017 Work Meeting

Receipts: January 2017 Receipts: \$21,502.23

Reports

Chief Financial Officer

Tax Assessor

Tax Collector: Month of January, 2017 Collected \$454,414.60

Construction Code Official

Zoning Officer

Township Engineer: Mr. Rodman discussed the **Transportation Trust Fund** and that the Township will be receiving \$180,000 for road work on Jenny Jump Road. The application that was submitted was for \$182,000 and he questions, if there will be sufficient funds to complete this project. As for the repair to the rock wall in the Historic section of town. Ted took pictures and measurements. There is about 668 feet of wall that needs repairs. Mayor McDonough will try to set up a meeting with the County to review. The Church will make their own application for a grant, but that the Township has offered to help them.

Salt Shed: The 'specs' for the salt shed are ready. The contractors will be responsible for doing the drawings; bid does not include any demolish. Location is still in discussions.

Road Department

Fire Department: Januarys 2017 report reviewed

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

Warren County Health Department: Mrs. Fisher reviewed the report with respect to investigation of complaints filed and also Rabies report and approved Septic/Well applications.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Environmental Commission: Annual Report of accomplishments for 2016

Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

Community Police Officer

Use of Township Facility Request:

Billie McKenna's Foundation: May 7, 2017 5K Run/Walk Mrs. Fisher noted that their paperwork and Certificate of Insurance were in order. Mr. Kruk motioned to approve their request and waive the application fee, seconded by Mr. McDonough. Motion carried and all were in favor. Mr. Beatty – absent

Cathy Bao Bean – Free Adult Coed Exercise Classes - Mrs. Fisher noted that their paperwork was not in order. The applicant could not furnish us with a Certificate of Insurance. Mayor McDonough noted that this Group is from Frelinghuysen Township and are looking for another location. Mayor Desiderio, Frelinghuysen Township has offered this Group another site in Frelinghuysen for their classes, of which they are not happy with. After a brief discussion, Mr. Kruk moved to not approve their application, seconded by Mr. McDonough. Motion carried. Mr. Beatty - absent

Historic Preservation Commission

Committee Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough: Discussed Walnut and Millbrook Roads and Foundry Road.

Deputy Mayor George Beatty: Absent

Committeeman Kruk

Municipal Clerk: Correspondence on file in the Clerk's Office

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to approve and adopted Resolution 2017-20
2017-20 Authorizing the award of a professional services contract for the preparation of a Survey to SADC standards of property known as Blocks 1200, Lot 2403 in the Township of Hope.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for survey services to be rendered to the Township of Hope in preparation for acquisition of a Farmland Easement on certain real property located within the Township of Hope; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the survey must be completed in accordance with the specifications of the State Agriculture Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Township wishes to retain the services of Laura Brill Associates, in accordance with its proposal letter dated December 15, 2016, and;

WHEREAS, the Committee wishes to award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00 for Laura Brill Associates, and the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Hope hereby awards and authorizes Laura Brill Associates to complete a survey of the above-referenced property in accordance with SADC standards, for an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00.
2. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this resolution in the Township's official newspaper and to provide a copy of this resolution to the Chief Financial Officer and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

Roll Call Vote:

Committeeman Kruk - yes, Mayor McDonough - yes Committeeman Beatty - Absent

A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to approve and adopted Resolution 2017-21
2017-21 Authorizing the award of a professional services contract for the preparation of a title search report and title insurance commitment for property known as Block 1200, Lot 2403 in the Township of Hope.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for title services to be rendered to the Township of Hope in the possible acquisition of a Farmland Easement on certain real property located within the Township of Hope; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the title report and commitment must be completed in accordance with the specifications of the State Agriculture Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, The Township wishes to retain the services of Title Lines, in accordance with its proposal letter dated January 9, 2017, and;

WHEREAS, the Committee wishes to award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$692.00 for Title Lines, and the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Hope hereby awards and authorizes Title Lines to perform title services on the above-referenced property in accordance with SADC standards, for an amount not to exceed \$692.00.
2. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this resolution in the Township's official newspaper and to provide a copy of this resolution to the Chief Financial Officer and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

Roll Call Vote:

Committeeman Kruk - yes, Mayor McDonough - yes

Committeeman Beatty - Absent

A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to approve and adopted Resolution 2017-22
2017-22 Authorizing Hope Township to participate in the acquisitions of Development Rights of Buckaloo View Farm known as Block 1200, Lot 2403 in the Township of Hope

WHEREAS, property owned by known on the official tax map of Hope Township (the "Township") as Block 1200, Lot 2403 ("the Property"), consisting of approximately 23.5 acres, was designated as a property to be protected under the Township Farmland Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Agricultural Development Committee has certified the fair market value of said farm; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the Property are willing to sell their development rights to the Township and County; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Department of Agriculture, State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), provided Hope Township with a grant under the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (Muni PIG) Program to purchase development rights on active farms within the Township; and

WHEREAS, two fair market appraisals were obtained by the Township to establish the value of the development rights on this property; and

WHEREAS, the SADC certified a market value of \$4,200 per acre for the development rights; and

WHEREAS, the Property will include one (1), 1 acre non-severable exception area; which will contain a single family residence with septic; attached chicken run and one shed; so the net easement acres anticipated are 22.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township and landowner have agreed to a purchase price of \$4,200 per acre for the development rights on the Property, or a total of approximately \$94,500.00, the exact compensation to be determined by a final survey; and

WHEREAS, the SADC will provide a grant through the Muni PIG program in the amount of \$2,920 per acre, or a total of approximately \$65,700 for the development rights; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren will provide a grant in the amount of approximately \$640.00 per acre for the development rights, for a total of approximately \$14,400 and will handle the closing of the easement and will own the easement; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope will provide a grant in the amount of approximately \$640.00 per acre for the development rights, for a total of approximately \$14,400; and

WHEREAS, contingent upon the aforementioned grants from SADC and the County of Warren being made available for the acquisition, the remaining funds for the purchase of the development rights are available in, and will be paid from the Hope Township Open Space Trust; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorized participation in the purchase of the development rights for the Property, as follows:

- 1) The Township authorizes up to \$14,400, the precise amount to be determined after completion of the survey to be paid from the Township's Open Space Trust.

2) The above being contingent on grants from the County of Warren and The State of New Jersey through the Municipal PIG Program to cover the balance of funds needed to purchase the development rights.

3) Due diligence for the acquisition will be completed by the Township with the assistance of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. It is anticipated that the cost of due diligence will be funded from the Township's Open Space Trust Fund, and authorized under a separate resolution. It is anticipated that 50% of the cost of due diligence will be reimbursed by SADC from the Township Municipal PIG grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that it hereby authorized the Municipal Clerk, Township Attorney and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey to sign documents and take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the intent and purpose of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Committeeman Kruk - yes, Mayor McDonough - yes Committeeman Beatty - Absent

A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to approve and adopted Resolution 2017-23
2017-23 Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Overlay of Birch Ridge Road Project

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Hope formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2017-Overlay of Birch Ridge Road –00653 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Hope.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Hope and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approved the execution of the grant agreement.

A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to approve and adopted Resolution 2017-24
2017-24 Refunding Tax Sale Certificate 2017-005 (Not yet issued) that was redeemed Block3400, Lot 1300, 329 Johnsonburg Road (Emily C. Brown)

WHEREAS, the property by Emily C. Brown known as Block 3400, Lot 1300 located at 329 Johnsonburg Road had unpaid 2016 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale on 02 February 2017 by the Hope Township Tax Collector, and

WHEREAS, US Bank Cust for PC6, Sterling National of 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050 located in Philadelphia, PA 19102 was the successful bidder of the above property. The amount of the Tax sale consisted of unpaid 2016 property taxes, interest and the other costs and totaled \$4,611.46 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2017-005; and

WHEREAS, Emily C. Brown, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$4,623.46 on 07 February 2017 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on the 08th day of February 2017 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank Cust for PC6, Sterling National in the amount of \$4,623.46 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2017-005 (Not Yet Issued).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank Cust for PC6, Sterling National in the amount of \$1,100.00 for the return of a Premium paid at Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a paid receipt be returned to Emily C. Brown of 327 Johnsonburg Road in Blairstown, NJ 07825

Roll Call Vote:

Committeeman Kruk - yes, Mayor McDonough - yes Committeeman Beatty - Absent

ORDINANCE: 2nd Reading and Public Hearing

2017-01 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 0.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,
WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2017 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,
WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope hereby determines that a 3.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 27,322.80 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,
WHEREAS the Township Committee of the Township of Hope hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope , in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2017 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hope shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$31,876.60, and that the CY 2017 municipal budget for the Township of Hope be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on January 4, 2017 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on February 8, 2017 at 7:00P.M., or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to open this portion of the meeting to the public for any comments on Ordinance 2017-01.

There were no comments from the public.

A motion was then made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to closed the portion of the meeting to the public.

A motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to adopt Ordinance 2017-01.

Roll Call:

Motion: Committeeman Kruk

Second: Committeeman McDonough

Roll Call: Committeeman Kruk: yes Mayor McDonough: yes Committeeman Beatty: Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

Status: Sanitary Landfill – No report.

Status: Wastewater Management Plan – Grant Search – No report.

Status: Draft Housing Element and Fair Share Plan – No Report

Status: Replacement Windows – Community Center – No Report.

Status: Repairs to the Rock Wall in the Historic District – Discussed.

Status: Empire Telecom: Proposed Cell Tower on Municipal Property (Waiting for additional information)

Status: Salt Shed Discussion – Discussed.

Status: Stormwater Management – Discussed.

Review Personnel Policy: Update/Special Meeting in 2017 (After Budget Adoption)

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter of Resignation: Ralph Price, Construction Official

Mr. Price thanked the Township for the opportunity to serve the residents and businesses of the Township. He served as the Construction Official for the last fourteen years. He has been offered a full time position with Tewksbury Township. Mr. Price offered to stay on until a replacement is appointed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to accept with regrets the resignation of Mr. Price as Construction Official.

Mayor McDonough talked that it's time to make a decision on going with the Department of Community Affairs. It's an opportunity that the Township should consider. The process is that an Ordinance will need to be introduced, adopted and then a certified copy sent to the State. This process would take about 60 to days to complete. Mayor McDonough will contact the Township Attorney to draft the Ordinance needed for introduction at the February 22, 2017 meeting. Noted was that all the fees collected for construction permit are then taken by the State. None of these fees stay with the Township.

Verizon Wireless: Request for consent to use public right-of-way for small network nodes

Suggestion was made to see if a Representative from Verizon could come to our next meeting to discuss this request.

Discussion: Ordinances from Piscataway Township for Fiber Optic Cable and Streets and Sidewalks: Copies were made and distributed to the Committee to review.

Professional Services Contract for 2017: Municipal Engineer, Ted Rodman

Motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. McDonough and carried to approved the contract for the Municipal Engineer, Ted Rodman for the calendar year 2017.

Roll Call:

Motion: Committeeman Kruk

Second: Committeeman McDonough

Roll Call: Committeeman Kruk: yes Mayor McDonough: yes Committeeman Beatty: Absent

WC Mosquito Control Commission: Authorization to perform Aerial application of pesticides

Environmental Commission is reviewing and the Committee is waiting for a response. **HOLDING**

Discussion: Ordinance for possible Referendum questions (General Election)

2017- Petitioning the Clerk of Warren County to place on the Ballot a Referendum to include Historic Preservation and Blue Acres Projects as purposes of Open Space Tax.

The Committee briefly discussed but they requested that an decision be hold to the next meeting when Mr. Beatty will be present.

Mr. Kruk talked about Smart Procure. He was able, with model numbers, to find out what other organizations paid for a particular item. The items that he checked were the shredder and recording system that the Clerk requested during the budget meeting.

Public Participation: This portion of the meeting was opened to the public for any questions or concerns. There being none, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Approval of Minutes: None

Executive Session: None

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman McDonough. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. Beatty - absent

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk